

*“I am the
resurrection
and the life.”*

JOHN 11:25



April 7, 2024

**Jesus said to her ‘I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die,
will live.’ – John 11:25**
Easter tide

This morning we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, a gracious gift that God provides to Christ’s body, the church. All who have been baptized into Christ and who desire to honor him with grateful and obedient living are invited to participate in this sacrament, discerning that this bread and cup are signs and seals of God’s love for us and that we who participate are members of Christ’s body.

We serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.

Ten o’clock

April 7, 2024

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: Partita on “Alleluia, Alleluia” [#179]

John A. Behnke

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Call to Worship: “Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah! [#563]

Text and Music: J. Jefferson Cleveland

* Opening Hymns: “Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”
“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna”

#179:1,2,4
#204:1-3

* God’s Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Almighty God,
When we deny you, forgive us.
When the risks of discipleship are high,
and we are nowhere to be found:

All: forgive us.

When we wash our hands of responsibility:

All: forgive us.

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors
and seek to buy freedom with silver:

All: forgive us.

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth.
or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

All: forgive us.

In the light of the resurrection, O God,
our sin is exposed, and your grace is revealed.

**All: Tender God, raise us in your love so that, with joy,
we may witness to your awesome deeds,
in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.**

Hymn of Confession: "Come to Us, Beloved Stranger"

#207:1-2

* Assurance of Pardon

* Affirmation of Faith: Lord's Day 17

Leader: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

**All: First, by his resurrection he has overcome death,
so that he might make us share in the righteousness
he obtained for us by his death.**

Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life.

**Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us
of our blessed resurrection.**

* Song of Response: "Glory Be to the Father"

#961

(Children may come forward during this hymn.)

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Message for Children

Blessing for Children

Leader: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

All: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

All: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

* Hymn of Preparation: "Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

#199:1,3,4

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: John 11:1-27

page 873

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

Prayer of Application

CHRIST WELCOMES US TO THE TABLE

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us –
even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his life, death, and resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore, we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper
the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross
by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world.
In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again,
we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices.
Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!**

Leader: Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
that the bread which we break
and the cup which we bless
may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Grant that, being joined together in him,
we may attain to the unity of the faith
and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf,
and these grapes from many hills into one cup,
grant, O Lord, that your whole church
may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.
Even so, come Lord Jesus!

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(God has given us his peace, and we are invited to offer that peace to one another. Many people do this by shaking hands, but if for any reason you would rather not shake hands, you are encouraged to pass the peace with a smile and a nod, as you say, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

Institution and Invitation

Distribution Anthems:

"Come and Feast"

Text and Music: Lee Dengler

Eat this bread. Drink this wine. Join the table, come and dine.

There is healing for your soul, so come and feast, and be made whole.

In this time you will be blest. Come to Christ, he is your rest.

There is healing for your soul, so come and feast, and be made whole.

Eat this bread. Drink this wine. At this table you will find

there is life for all who eat, so come and feast, be made complete.

Lay your cares and burdens here. You are free, no need to fear.

There is life for all who eat, so come and feast, be made complete.

Eat this bread. Drink this wine. Earthly signs of Love divine.

We remember what they mean, and so we feast, and are made clean.

At this table you will find there is more than bread and wine.

There is food to feed the soul, so come and feast, and be made whole.

"In Christ Alone" [#770]

Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend arr. Brent Wells

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: “Praise the Savior, Now and Ever”

#191:1-3

* Invitation to Offering: Graham Rayburn

* Offertory Prayer for Benevolence

Deacon: God, your generosity to us is abundant and gracious.
Everything we have comes from you.

**All: Receive our gifts of our time, our selves, and our possessions.
Help us to grow in gratitude and joy as we follow Jesus. Amen.**

* Benediction

* Doxology: “Praise the Savior, Now and Ever”

#191:4

**For his favor, praise forever unto God the Father sing.
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ’s merit he doth us salvation bring.
Amen.**

* Postlude: “Rigaudon”

Andre Campra

Liturgist: Donna Houskamp
Preaching Pastor: Rev. Brad Zwiers
Organist and Choir Director: Kenneth Bos
Ministry of Music: Sanctuary Choir
Choir Pianist: Lisa Meyer
Scripture Reader: Karl Van Harn
Audio/Video: Sarah Frisch, Steve Triezenberg

Calvin CRC Announcements for April 7, 2024

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM

Morning worship: Rev. Brad Zwiers completes our series on the I AM statements of Jesus with a sermon from John 11:1-27, "I AM the resurrection and the life." We celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, April 14

Morning worship: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys will preach from 1 John 2:29-3:10, and the Sanctuary Choir will lead us in ministry of music. The offering will be for Missions.

Staff notes: Pastor Rebecca is on vacation April 1-8.

COUNCIL NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: We will hold a brief congregational meeting after the morning worship service on April 21 to approve a slate of new Elders and Deacons. The nominees for Elder: Ron Rozema and Don Trap. The nominees for Deacon: Kris Bergh, Dan Hubka, and Elly Nyhof. More nominees will be added before April 21 because the Elder and Deacon slates are not yet completely filled; we will inform you of those nominees in due course.

CHURCH FAMILY

Today's flowers are in loving memory of Bernie Hedrick.

Cindy Lanning Burch

Jan Walhout (district 8) died on Friday, March 29. We pray for God's comfort and peace for Clare and for their children, grandchildren, and friends. Jan's family is making plans for an April 20 memorial service, and we will share more details as they are available.

Mission Outreach: Following our congregation's vote on the Loving and Learning Together document we informed all the mission outreach causes we currently support of our decision. Since that time we have received word from three of the mission teams, Rev. Anthony and Sara Sytsma (Resonate/Uganda), Rev. Dr. David and Hiroko Sytsma (Tokyo Christian University), and Daryl and Carol VanDyken (TWR), informing us that they believe they cannot, in good conscience, continue to accept our financial support. We have also received a message from another team applauding our decision. Since that team works in an area where support for the affirming position would likely jeopardize ministries and relationships we are not now disclosing names. These exchanges highlight the sensitivity of this challenging matter and differences in beliefs and viewpoints. We urge the congregation to be increasingly in prayer for all who are and have been directly and indirectly impacted by our statement and for all who have, over time, experienced exclusion from the life of the church.

CAN YOU SPARE A CAR? Eric Ruvuna, a new member of Calvin Church, has temporary need of a car that seats six. Are you currently able to loan a car or van? If so, or for more information, contact Rosemary Stevenson.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

TLC, Worship Center, Worship and Wonder, and Catechism will not be meeting on Sunday April 7 for Spring Break. There will be volunteers in the nursery.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

BOOK CLUB: We will gather on Monday, April 8 at 3:00 PM to discuss the book, *Our Missing Hearts* by Celest Ng. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, contact Pat Elders.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: We plan to meet on Wednesday afternoons, 2:30-4:00 PM, from April 10 to May 15 to discuss scripture passages about prayer. You are very welcome to join! Contact Pastor Rebecca for a copy of the study guide or with any questions.

CALLING ALL ARTS AND CRAFTERS: Would you like to free up some of your studio space while improving the biodiversity of the church grounds at the same time? Consider donating your handmade items to the April 17 Community Garden fundraiser. See the upcoming article in April's *Courier* or contact Cindy Burch for more details.

PASTA PARTY: Neighborhood Free Pasta Dinner coming Wednesday, April 17, from 5:00–7:30 PM. Activities for kids and an opportunity to assemble kits for Kids' Food Basket (KFB). Good food, good fun, good conversations. Mark your calendar! Donations to defray the cost of food and signs may be marked "Pasta Party" and sent to the office.

KIDS' FOOD BASKET: On April 17 Calvin Church and our neighbors will pack supper sacks for Kids' Food Basket. You are invited to contribute items to fill the sacks. To ensure each child is receiving the same meal, KFB asks for no substitutions to the items on the Supper Pack supply list. Please have your donations on the table by the kitchen by April 14.

- Pudding Cup
- Meat sticks - 0.28 oz sticks
- Fruit Cup or Pouch (no foil tops)
- Pretzel, Cheez-it, or Goldfish bag (1.5 oz or smaller)
- Quart Size Bag (must be zipper lock style)

BLOOD DRIVE is April 17. We have 17 willing donors so far and need about 17 more! Please join us in the church narthex to help our area hospitals. You may schedule online at https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/156334. or email judybode4@yahoo.com for your preferred time slot. Thank you!

CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, April 7</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Laura Prince
	Nursery Volunteers: Yvonne Triezenberg, Hannah Triezenberg
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Irene Konyndyk
	Coffee Servers: Bob and Beth Schoone-Jongen
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Trudi Huizenga
	<i>Monday, April 8</i>
3:00p	Book Club in the Lounge
	<i>Tuesday, April 9</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
6:00p	Executive committee meets in the Conference Room
	<i>Wednesday, April 10</i>
5:45p	Allegro Ringers rehearsal in the Narthex
7:00p	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal in the Balcony
	78ers meet in the Catacomb
	<i>Thursday, April 11</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
10:00a	Quilting Bee in Room 1
	<i>Next Sunday, April 14</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Amy Netz
	Nursery Volunteers: Judy Alphenaar, Molly Netz
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Norma Spears
	Coffee Servers: Dale and Joanie Rosema
11:20a	Worship and Wonder in Room 9
	Catechism
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Cindy Lanning Burch
6:30p	CYG Bible Study



Growing in DiscipleshipTransformed for Ministry

Welcome to Calvin Church

In Worship:

- Our worship proceeds unannounced and follows the printed liturgy.
- Reprint and streaming licenses are One License A-730126, CCLI#2532147, and CSPL#175060.
- The prayer of confession is adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*.
- Our Easter banner represents our joy in our Lord's resurrection: the purple conveys the reality of Christ's royalty; the blackness, symbolic of His death, moves from the onset easing into light, symbolizing life out of death. It is a promise fulfilled, giving us reason for hope in the truth of the eternal life to come.
- Large-print resources are available at the Information Desk.
- Our facility is equipped with the Loop hearing system.



For Children:

- Ages 0-2: Infant and toddler nurseries are available.
- Preschool: The Little Children (TLC) gathers in the nursery prior to the morning worship.
- K-2nd: After the Children's Message the Children's Worship ministry meets downstairs in Rooms 11 & 13 until the conclusion of worship. Parents meet their children there following the service.
- Busy Bags for young children are on the picket fence in the Atrium.
- Bulletins for older children are in the rack in the Narthex.

Fellowship and Information:

- Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the morning service.
- "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams

Church office hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday—Thursday
Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon
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